

discussed as the gas tax has not been increased since 1993 and available funds are decreasing every year.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that maintaining an efficient, multi-modal transportation system is critical to regional and national economic growth. H. Res. 5 repeals an important policy that will hurt investment in transportation infrastructure and reduce jobs. Twenty-one transportation and economic groups are also opposed to this change in the rules package, including State Departments of Transportation.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H. Res. 5.

#### ATTACKS IN EGYPT

#### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 18, 2011*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the families and communities of the Egyptians who lost their lives in the recent New Year's bomb attack. The horror of this tragedy continues to reverberate across the world—a tragedy in which those peacefully practicing their faith were attacked and brutally murdered.

The Government of Egypt has a responsibility to protect all its citizens. Sadly, it has not done that. Over the last decade, there has been a disturbing pattern of the Government allowing, condoning, or responding with apathy to attacks against Christians in Egypt. There is simply no excuse for the lack of protection in this recent attack, last year's Christmas attack, and any other attacks against the Christian community or their places of worship and service.

When will the Egyptian Government wake up to its duty to protect its citizens?

Until Egypt is a free country where all Egyptians are able to peacefully practice their faith without fear or restriction, none of Egypt is truly free. Those in the government who would support the extremists who engage in these attacks are the ones who undermine democracy, freedom, and stability for the Egyptian people.

Again, governments do not need to take overt action for discrimination or persecution to occur. Denial of justice occurs by governments when the governments themselves, though not directly involved in persecution, indirectly encourage it by their statements, actions and subsequent policies. Instead, they look the other way when injustice happens. A prime example of this is the 1998 Al-Kosheh case in which the government exonerated individuals charged with persecuting, arresting, and torturing over 1,000 Coptic Christians, and even gave job promotions to the state security officials responsible for the persecution. That is not protection of citizens and that is not justice.

I call on the Egyptian Government to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous crime against the Copts, and ultimately against the people of Egypt, are brought to justice.

To the Coptic community, please know that our hearts and prayers go out to you in this time of grief and loss. We stand with you.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT  
1ST CLASS JOHN P. FLEMING,  
RECIPIENT OF THE SILVER STAR  
MEDAL

#### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 18, 2011*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Army Sgt. 1st Class John P. Fleming, who was recently awarded the Silver Star Medal by U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates while on active duty in Afghanistan.

The Silver Star Medal is the third highest military decoration to be bestowed by the U.S. Army, after the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. First established as the Citation Star by an Act of Congress in 1918, the Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations. The required gallantry must have been performed with marked distinction.

John Fleming grew up in Alton, Illinois, and attended Marquette High School, graduating in 1996. He enlisted in the Army in 2001. John's family has a proud tradition of military service. Both of his grandfathers served in the Army and he has a brother who served in the Air Force.

In 2010, Sgt. Fleming was in his first deployment in Afghanistan after three deployments to Iraq. On November 17 his platoon was engaged with the enemy in a Taliban stronghold in the Pech Valley of Kunar Province. Cut off from their main support, Fleming and his men came under heavy fire. Fleming had just put on his helmet before the bullets and shrapnel came raining in on them which no doubt saved his life. He took three shots to the helmet and one to his chest, which was protected by his body armor.

While under intense enemy fire, Sgt. Fleming tended to his platoon, including patching wounds in a fellow soldier's chest and back. When support aircraft were sent to his position, Sgt. Fleming provided directions to the enemy locations so covering fire could enable evacuation of the wounded. Six soldiers from Fleming's platoon died as a result of wounds suffered during the battle.

Sgt. John Fleming's courage and decisive action under the most extreme circumstances contributed to saving the lives of many in his platoon. For this tremendous gallantry, he was awarded the Silver Star, which was presented to him in a ceremony on December 7, 2010, by Secretary Gates.

Sgt. Fleming and his wife, Helen, have two sons, Thomas, and John Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sgt. John Fleming on receiving the Silver Star and expressing our sincere gratitude for his service to our country.

HONORING CHARLES "CHUCK"  
DANIELS, JR.

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 18, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Charles "Chuck" Daniels, Jr., of San Rafael, California, who passed away December 28, 2010, at the age of 84.

A businessman in Marin County for many decades, Chuck developed the House of Daniels beverage distributing company which had originally been founded, as Golden Gate Distributing Co., by his father at the end of Prohibition. What began as a small warehouse in San Anselmo eventually moved to Black Point in Novato where it became a \$20 million business with 75 employees.

House of Daniels was known for its fine collection of wines and also distributed beer, spirits, and other beverages. Its last beverage interests were sold in 2005, and the Novato site changed to a storage operation with Chuck as CEO.

Chuck also played a larger role in the industry including involvement in Robert Mondavi winery, the North Coast Growers Association, the Old Timers Wine Club of Northern California, and as director or president of statewide groups such as the Spirits Wholesalers Association of America, the Northern California Wine and Spirits Wholesaler Association, and the California Beer Distributors Association. Trellis Vineyards, his own winery, was located in Sonoma County.

Involved in the Marin County community, Chuck was particularly active in public safety issues. He served on the California Crime Commission and the Fire Commission of the San Rafael Fire Department as well as working on arson investigations with local enforcement. He also supported a variety of youth activities, and, in 1997, the Marin Council of Boy Scouts named him their Distinguished Citizen of the Year. While a member of Dominican University's Leadership Forum, he promoted the renovation of historic buildings on campus.

Chuck's sense of fun was as integral to his personality as his passion for service. He was a founder of the Marin Republican Council as well as the Tocaloma Temperance Society, a social club for retired politicians. He loved spending time at the beaches of Lake Tahoe and in the mountains of Yosemite, as well as seeking out fine wine and dining experiences with his wife Carol.

In addition to Carol, he is survived by his three sons, Charles III, Peter, and Jonathan, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, although we mourn the loss of Charles Daniels in our community, I am proud to celebrate his many accomplishments and his dedication to making Marin County a better place.